



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - February 28, 2003**

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers continue in the ***central and southern Rockies*** and ***Pacific Northwest***. Despite recent ***Western*** storminess, water-supply prospects for the remainder of the year are a significant concern in most areas from the ***Rockies westward***, due to this year's sub-par mountain snow packs in combination with the cumulative effects of a multi-year drought.
- ***On the Plains***, snow is again overspreading ***central portions of the region***, where the still-dormant winter wheat crop is benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements. Meanwhile, somewhat less favorable conditions exist on the drought-affected ***northern High Plains***, where soil moisture reserves are limited and wheat's protective snow cover is shallow and patchy.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a temporary break in the cold-weather pattern is easing stress on ***Midwestern*** livestock. A substantial snow cover continues to blanket winter wheat areas from the ***Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, beneficial showers continue in Florida, following recent record warmth. Farther north, the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region*** and parts of the ***interior South*** are recovering from the latest round of snowy, icy weather.

**Outlook:** Snow will gradually end today across the ***Mid-Atlantic States***. However, a trailing storm system may result in more wet weather across the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States*** during the weekend. By Sunday, the storm may bring significant snow to ***New England***. Farther west, light snow is possible across the ***southern Rockies and southern Plains***. By early next week, bitterly cold weather is forecast to return to the ***Midwest and Great Lakes region***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 5-9 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Plains, Southwest, Southeast, and northern and central Rockies***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Pacific Northwest, upper Mississippi Valley, and New England***. Below-normal temperatures will persist across much of the Nation, but above-normal temperatures are expected along the ***Gulf Coast***.

***Contact:*** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)